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## NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS

IN CHARGE OF

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**EDUCATION OF THE NURSE.**—In a paper presented at a meeting of the Medical Society of the State of New Jersey the question was asked whether it was fair to the applicant who came to the hospital to be trained to use her as much as she was used for the convenience of the institution and to neglect so largely the bedside training. Too often, it was stated, the nurse's training was left to a subordinate nurse, while those paid for that purpose were seldom seen at the bedside. Gross errors were too often controlled by severe discipline instead of being remedied by example and precept.

**DESTRUCTION OF FLIES.**—One ounce of oil of pennyroyal to one quart of kerosene is very distasteful to flies and destructive to the young. A small quantity sprinkled about the garbage can will keep flies away.

**DEATHS DUE TO CHILD-BIRTH.**—The *Bulletin of the Lying-in Hospital of New York* states that during the past fifty years the United States has lost a million women from puerperal causes. The absence of mortality in well-conducted maternity hospitals is emphasized; there all conditions can be controlled.

**TREATMENT OF POLIOMYELITIS.**—A correspondent of the *Medical Record* recommends local applications of 10 per cent silvol or argol, to the nose, with hexamethylenamin in large doses internally, in cases of infantile paralysis. Also the performance of lumbar puncture. As prophylaxis the use of silvol or argol and hexamethylenamin in moderate doses, in the case of all children who have been in contact with a positive case. The nose is probably the portal of entrance of infection.

**PREPARATION OF PATIENT FOR OPERATION.**—A writer in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* gives some useful hints. Sudden changes in the patient's habits and modes of dress are better avoided. For example, putting on cotton night-clothing when flannel is the accustomed wear; shampooing the hair against the patient's wishes, or having the windows open more widely than he prefers. This is no time to reform him. Tranquillity of mind is more important than the exact following of correct methods. Operations on the eye are especially referred to.

**TREATMENT OF PARALYSIS AGITANS.**—Dr. William N. Berkeley,

writing in the *Medical Record*, is of the opinion that paralysis agitans is caused by a deficiency of the parathyroid glands. He has treated it successfully by the administration of an acetic extract of the fresh gland. He thinks it will ultimately be possible to cure it by this means, just as cretinism is cured with thyroid.

POSTURE IN OBSTETRICS.—In a paper read by Dr. Markoe of New York, at the meeting of the American Medical Association the importance of posture during labor was especially dwelt upon. Chairs were in use from remote antiquity amongst primitive tribes of Africa and had been in use in European countries down to the present day. In Holland, as late as the last century, one formed part of the outfit of the well-equipped bride. Crouching was one of the early postures. During the first stage the chair permitted full dilatation to take place. The use of the ordinary rocking chair, with certain support for the feet, which could throw the axis of the uterus back, was illustrated.

MALE NURSES.—A writer in the *New York Medical Journal* advocates the training of young men to the nursing profession. He says male nurses are necessary because of the increasing scarcity of female nurses. Male nurses could attend to the orderly's duties. A certain proportion might be trained for nursing in army hospitals and in event of war could be sent to places where it would be impossible to send female nurses.

PASTEUR TREATMENT OF RABIES.—Of 723 cases of rabies treated at the Pasteur Institute, Lyons, not one was lost. But eight patients have died since the treatment was begun in 1900.

IMPROVEMENT IN TRAINING OF NURSES.—The subject of nurses seems to be on the tapis in the medical journals this month. An editorial in the *Medical Record* advises that a course of lectures and demonstrations should be given probationers before their admission to the wards. It acknowledges that this is done in some hospitals. It considers that the powers of the superintendent of nurses is usually much too arbitrary. Personal animus or lack of patience with a beginner may terminate abruptly a career which would otherwise have been successful. No nurse, it concludes, should be allowed to practice until she has passed an examination by a state licensing board in both theoretical and practical nursing.

THYROID TREATMENT OF CONTRACTURE.—A Brazilian medical journal reports a case of contracture of both hands, following three attacks of articular rheumatism which rendered them useless. A course of thyroid treatment was begun, by the sixth day improvement was manifest and by the twentieth the hands were restored to normal.

GRAPES AS A PRESERVATIVE.—An Italian medical journal states

that the unfermented juice of grapes and the pulp mixed with milk, ground meat, blood, or the yolk of eggs, seems to modify the protein in such a way as to make it keep much longer and make it more readily digestible.

**FINGER PRINTS AND NEURITIS.**—Finger prints have been considered an infallible proof of identity. A writer in *Presse Medical* says change may take place under traumatic neuritis. The pores may encroach on the lines, there may be desquamation, or emaciation, the lines may show gaps, or the whole finger print become blurred almost beyond recognition. Injury of the median or ulnar nerve causes these results.

**ETIOLOGY OF CHOREA.**—The *American Journal of Diseases of Children* suggests that a microörganism, or a group of microörganisms, may be the cause of chorea. They seem to show that if this is the case the source of infection is ordinarily in the tonsils or teeth. They tend to confirm the belief that there is an intimate relation between chorea, rheumatism and endocarditis.

**PHENOL AND ALCOHOL.**—It is stated in an extract in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* that the value of alcohol as an antidote for phenol poisoning has been scientifically disproved. Alcohol given after the injection of phenol has been found to hasten death. Glycerin also does not prevent the absorption of phenol nor the production of gangrene, though it lessens the caustic local action on the skin.

**ANTIDOTE FOR MERCURIAL POISONING.**—The *American Journal of Clinical Medicine* gives a method recently devised to antidote mercury in the system after the swallowing of a lethal dose. For every grain of mercury taken, 1 grain of calcium sulphide is given by mouth and repeated every two hours until 5 grains have been taken. If the case is 48 hours old when treatment is begun the drug is injected into a vein, one grain in an ounce of water for each grain swallowed. A case of recovery is reported in which 80 grains of bichloride had been taken.

**TREATMENT OF GUNSHOT WOUNDS BY PACKING WITH SALT SACKS.** The *Lancet* describes the use of salt sacks as a packing for septic wounds and for the treatment of secondary hemorrhage. The sacks are made of gauze in several sizes, filled with salt and sterilized in an autoclave. The effect when applied is to form a concentrated solution of salt, which promotes the resolution of inflammatory induration and aids the separation of dead tissue by solution of coagulated lymph. The salts remain in place from five to ten days and save the inconvenience of frequent dressing.